

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00  
EB-07 EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15  
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R 251611Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3883  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
MTN GENEVA  
USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 5330

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR - EEC  
SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY EC REPORT ON 1977 CROP, AREA AND OUTLOOK

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3300

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: BASED ON PRELIMINARY AND INCOMPLETE DATA, THE EC STATISTICAL OFFICE EXPECTS REDUCTIONS IN THE AREA PLANTED TO WHEAT, OATS AND SUGARBEETS IN 1977. ON THE OTHER HAND, AN EXPANSION OF THE AREAS PLANTED TO RYE, BARLEY, POTATOES AND REPESEED IS FORESEEN. THE REPORT NOTES THAT IN MUCH OF THE COMMUNITY THE SEEDING OF BOTH WINTER AND SUMMER GRAINS HAS BEEN DELAYED BY EXCESSIVE HUMIDITY. THE CONDITION OF THE WINTER GRAIN CROP IS JUDGED GOOD, WHILE THE SITUATION OF SUMMER GRAINS AND ROW CROPS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF WHICH HAS BEEN HINDERED BY DAMP AND COLD WEATHER, IS CONSIDERED LESS FAVORABLE. NO CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE IN THE ESTIMATE OF 1976 GRAIN PRODUCTION;  
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HOWEVER, THE ESTIMATE OF SUGARBEET PRODUCTION HAS BEEN INCREASED.  
END SUMMARY:

2. THE EC'S STATISTICAL OFFICE HAS JUST RELEASED A REPORT CONTAINING A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF 1977 CROP CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS THEIR LATEST ESTIMATES OF THE 1976 CROP. THEIR ESTIMATES FOR 1976 FRAIN AND POTATO PRODUCTION ARE

UNCHANGED FROM THOSE REPORTED IN THE REFTEL. THE ESTIMATE OF SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN INCREASED FROM 75.9 TO 78.3 MILLION TONS (AS COMPARED WITH 76.3 MILLION TONS IN 1975/76). THE REPORT ESTIMATES 1976/77 PRODUCTION OF RAW SUGAR AT 10.5 MILLION TONS (10.2 IN 1975/76). TOBACCO PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED AT 169,000 TONS IN 1976 AS COMPARED WITH 180,000 IN 1975.

3. THE REPORT STATES THAT SEEDING OF BOTH WINTER AND SUMMER GRAINS HAS BEEN DELAYED BY EXCESSIVE HUMIDITY. WHILE THE CONDITION OF THE WINTER GRAIN CROP IS STILL JUDGED TO BE GENERALLY GOOD, THE OUTLOOK FOR SUMMER GRAINS AND FOW CROPS IS FELT TO BE LESS FAVORABLE. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE CROPS HAS BEEN HINDERED BY

WET AND COLD WEATHER INCLUDING FROST. BASED ON INCOMPLETE DATA, THE STATISTICAL OFFICE EXPECTS OVERALL DECLINES IN THE AREAS PLANTED TO WHEAT, OATS AND SUGARBEETS (IN COMPARISON WITH 1976) AND INCOREASES IN THE AREAS PLANTED TO RYE, BARLEY, POTATOES AND RAPESEED.

4. THE SITUATION BY COUNTRY IS REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:

-GERMANY, BELGIUM, DENMARK: ESTIMATES OF AREAS PLANTED REMAIN AS REPORTED IN THE REFTEL.

-FRANCE: FORECAST OF AREAS UNDER CULTIVATION AS OF APRIL 27, 1977 WERE SOFT WHEAT 4.11 MILLION HA; DURUM WHEAT 140,000 HA; BARLEY 2.8 MILLION HA. (1.7 SUMMER BARLEY); CORN FOR GRAIN 1.8 MILLION HA.;  
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RICE 12,000 HA. THE COLD AND WET EATHER IS NOT THOUGHT TO HAVE CAUSED SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO ARABLE CROPS. THE PRODUCTION OF EARLY POTATOES IS EXPECTED TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN IN 1976.

ITALY: THE AREA IN WHEAT IS PROVISIONALLY ESTIMATED AT 2.88 MILLION HA. - 19 PERCENT LOWER THAN THE 3.55 MILLION HA. AREA HARVESTED IN 1976. THE AREA IN SOFT WHEAT IS ESTIMATED AT 1.53 MILLION HA. (1.87 IN 1976) AND THAT IN DURUM WHEAT IS ESTIMATED AT 1.35 MILLION HA. (1.68 IN 1976). THE DECLINE IN WHEAT AREA IS ATTRIBUTED NOT ONLY TO UNFAVOURABLE CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, BUT ALSO TO AN EXPANSION OF BARLEY, CORN, AND SUNFLOWER SEED CULTIVATION. THE AREA IN EARLY POTATOES IS EXPECTED TO BE UP ABOUT 25 PERCENT. AS A RESULT OF THE POORT SOWING CONDITIONS, SUGARBEET AREA IS EXPECTED TO BE DOWN SHARPLY FROM LAST YEAT (230,000 HA. AS COMPARED WITH 288,000 IN 1976).

NETHERLANDS: TOTAL GRAIN AREA IS EXPECTED TO BE THE SAEM AS LAST YEAR. THE AREA IN WINTER WHEAT IS ESTIMATED AT 120,000 HA.

ESTIMATES FOR OTHER CROPS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

|                   | 1,000 HA. |      |
|-------------------|-----------|------|
|                   | 1977      | 1976 |
| PULSES            | 9         | 9.5  |
| POTATOES          | 162-169   | 160  |
| SUGARBEETS        | 135       | 139  |
| RAPESEED, LINSEED | 37        | 23.9 |
| CORN FOR FORAGE   | 92        | 88   |

U.K.: EXCESSIVE SOIL MOISTURE WILL PREVENT THE AREA IN GRAINS FROM REACHING THE EARLIER ESTIMATE OF 3.15 MILLION HA. THE DEVELOPMENT OF WINTER GRAINS WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE IN THE SPRING BUT SUMMER CROPS HAVE SHOWN AN IRREGULAR AND DELAYED GROWTH.

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IRELAND: AS A RESULT OF COLD AND WET WEATHER, A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN WHEAT AREA IS ANTICIPATED. AN INCREASE IN BARLEY AREA IS EXPECTED.HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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